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ANNIVERSARY



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A **37** PAGE BOOK-LENGTH EPIC!

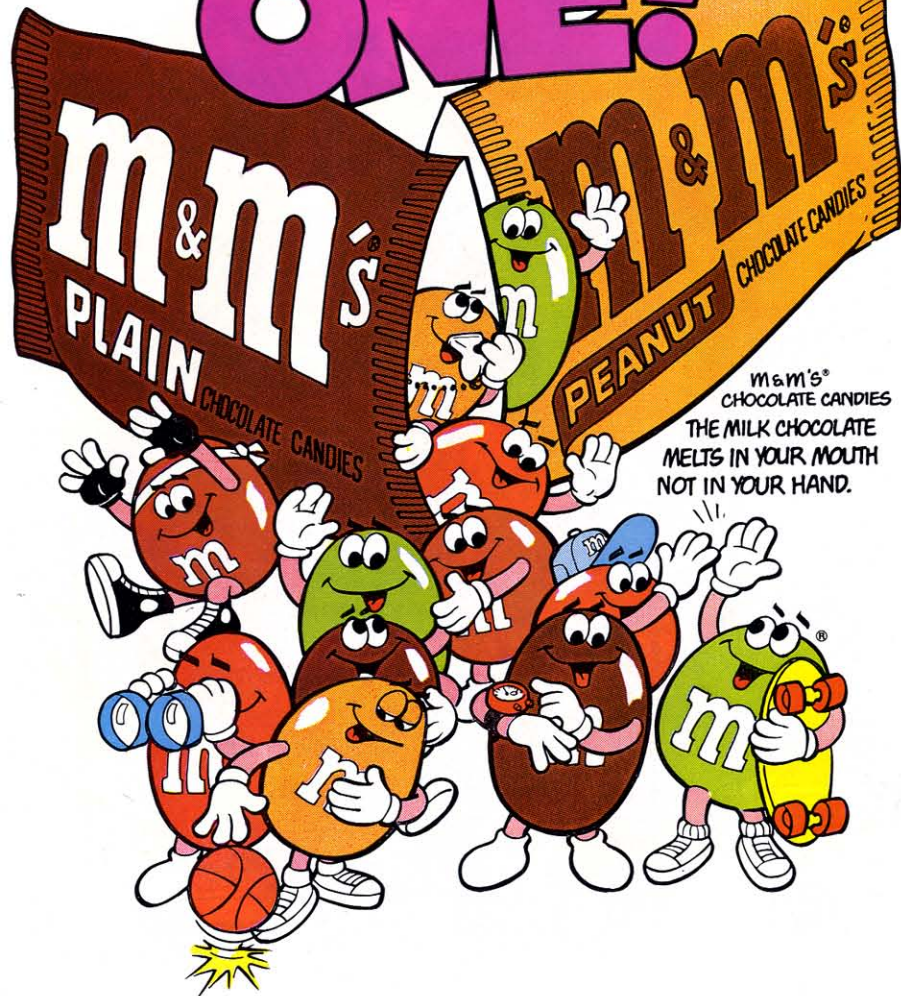
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

THIS IS IT!
THE RETURN OF THE HOBGOBLIN!



IN THIS ISSUE: **THE ORIGIN OF SPIDER-MAN!**
 THE ORIGINAL, UNABRIDGED CLASSIC!

PACKS OF FUN
FOR EVERYONE!



M&M's
CHOCOLATE CANDIES
THE MILK CHOCOLATE
MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH
NOT IN YOUR HAND.

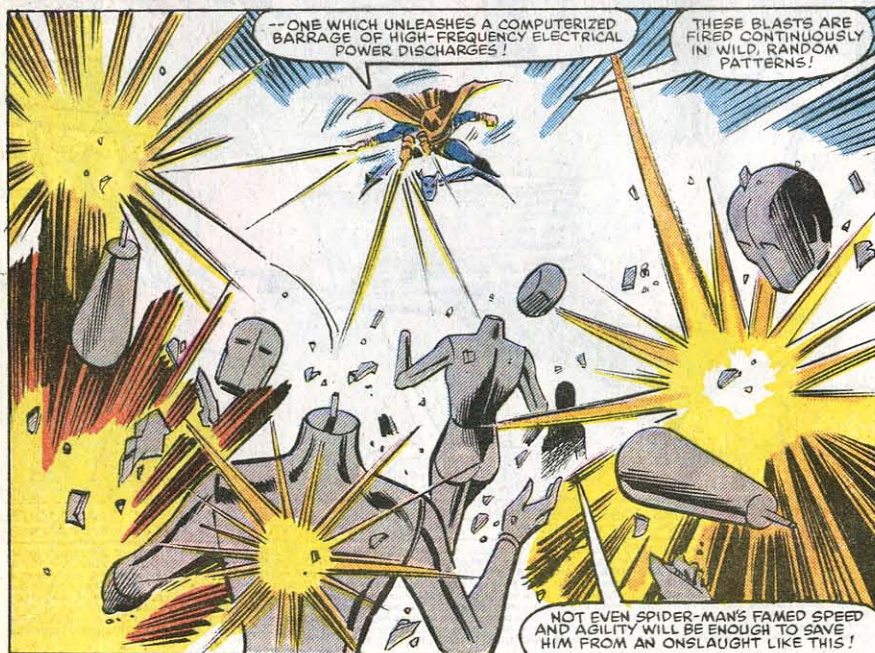
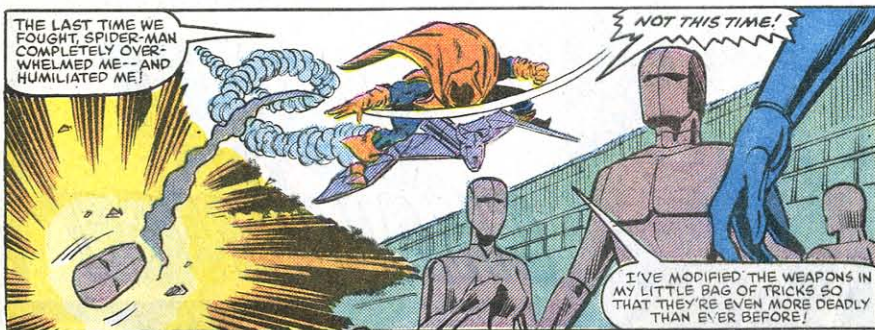
STAN LEE PRESENTS:

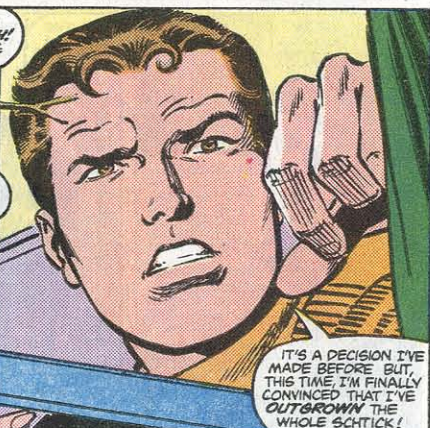
"THE CHOICE AND THE CHALLENGE!"



TOM DEFALCO WRITER RON FRENZ PENCILER JOSEF RUBINSTEIN FINISHED ART JOE ROSEN LETTERER NEL YOMTOV COLORIST JIM OWSLEY EDITOR JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

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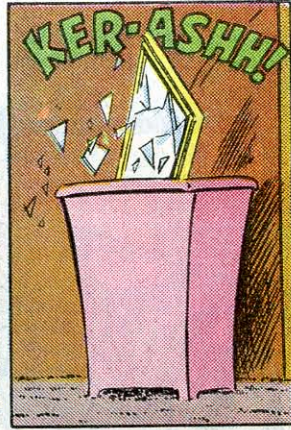
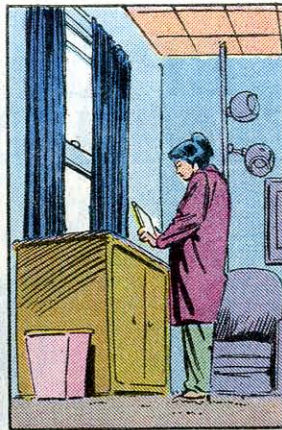
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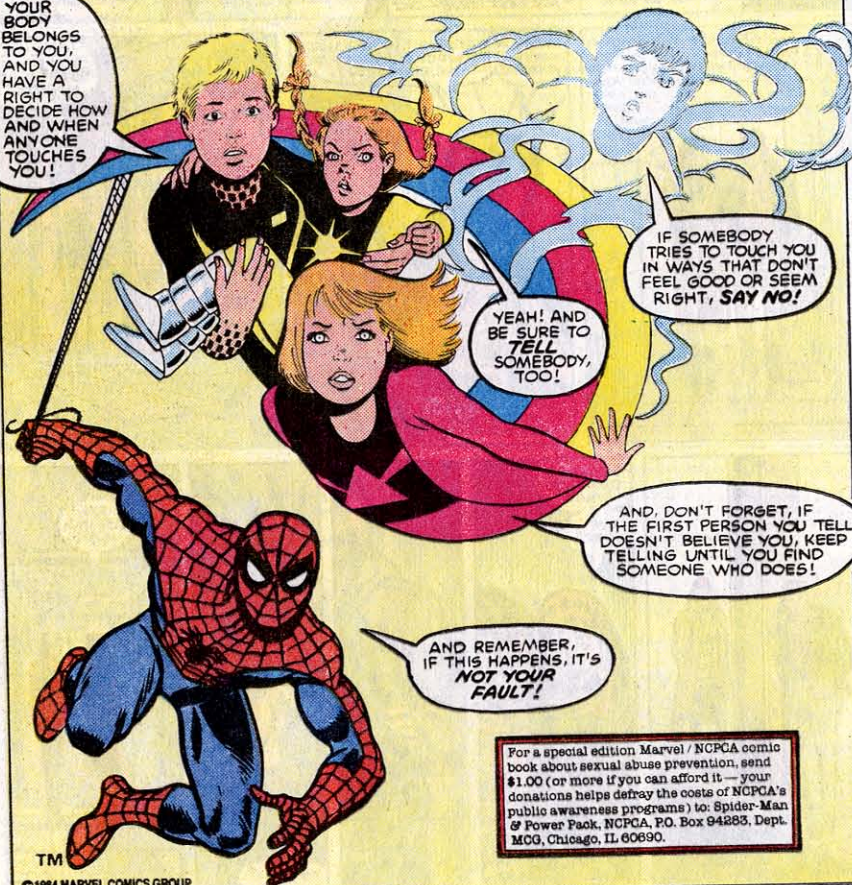
POWER PACK

These messages are brought to you as a public service by
Marvel Comics and the National Committee for
Prevention of Child Abuse.

AND the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

WITH TIPS ON WAYS TO PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE

YOUR
BODY
BELONGS
TO YOU,
AND YOU
HAVE A
RIGHT TO
DECIDE HOW
AND WHEN
ANYONE
TOUCHES
YOU!



YEAH! AND
BE SURE TO
TELL
SOMEBODY,
TOO!

IF SOMEBODY
TRIES TO TOUCH YOU
IN WAYS THAT DON'T
FEEL GOOD OR SEEM
RIGHT, **SAY NO!**

AND, DON'T FORGET, IF
THE FIRST PERSON YOU TELL
DOESN'T BELIEVE YOU, KEEP
TELLING UNTIL YOU FIND
SOMEONE WHO DOES!

AND REMEMBER,
IF THIS HAPPENS, IT'S
NOT YOUR FAULT!

For a special edition Marvel / NCPA comic
book about sexual abuse prevention, send
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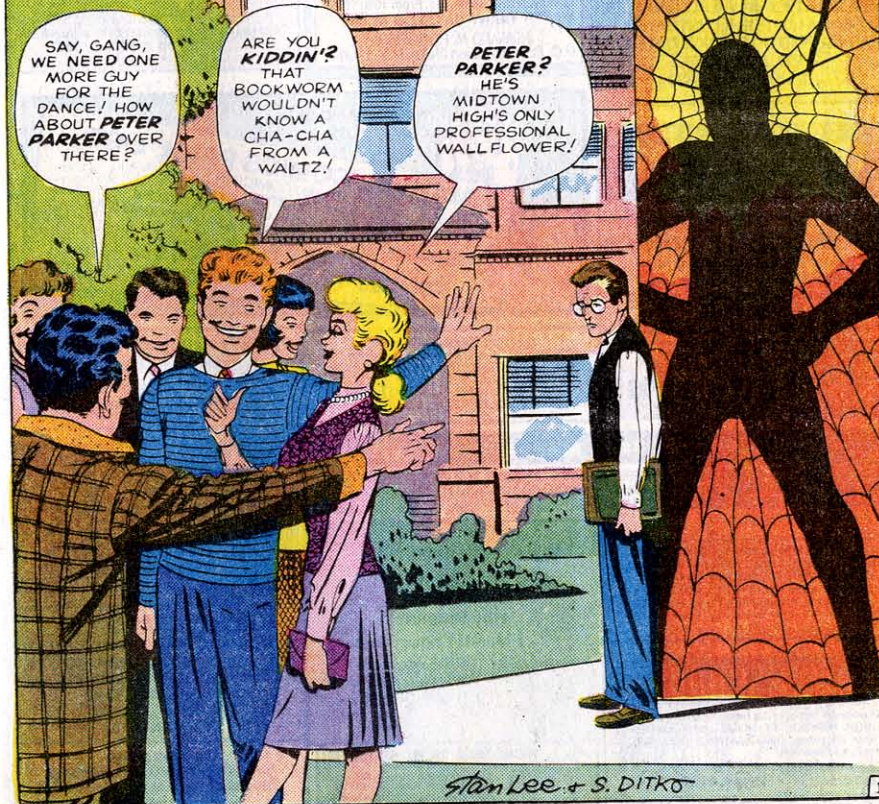
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SPIDER-MAN!



LIKE COSTUMED HEROES? CONFIDENTIALLY,
WE IN THE COMIC MAG BUSINESS REFER TO
THEM AS "LONG UNDERWEAR CHARACTERS".
AND, AS YOU KNOW, THEY'RE A DIME A
DOZEN! BUT, WE THINK YOU MAY FIND
OUR SPIDER-MAN JUST A BIT... DIFFERENT!



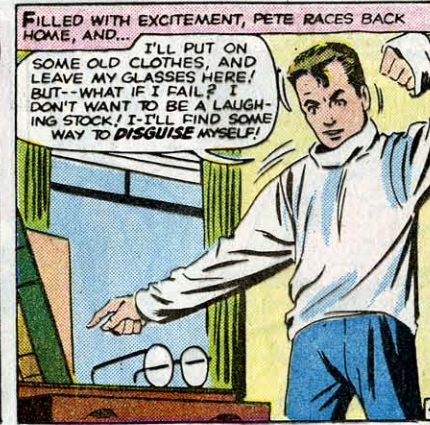
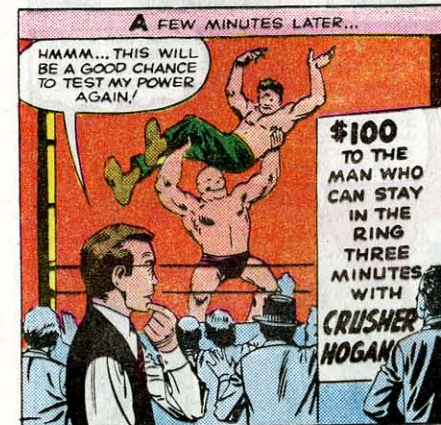
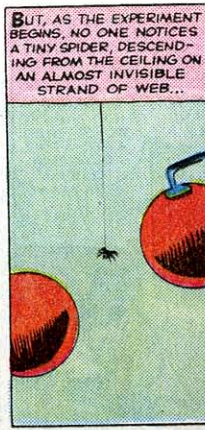
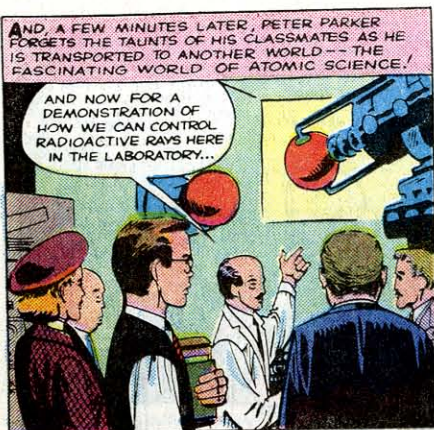
SAY, GANG,
WE NEED ONE
MORE GUY
FOR THE
DANCE! HOW
ABOUT **PETER
PARKER** OVER
THERE?

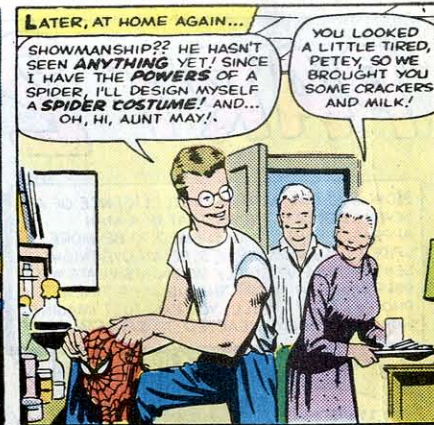
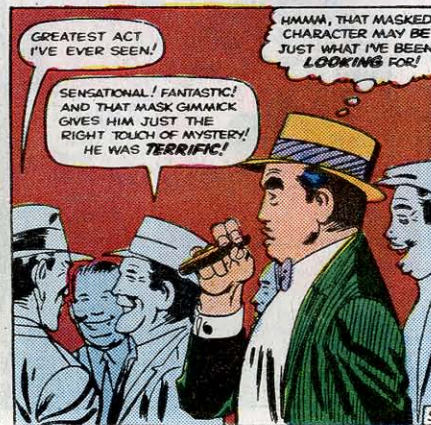
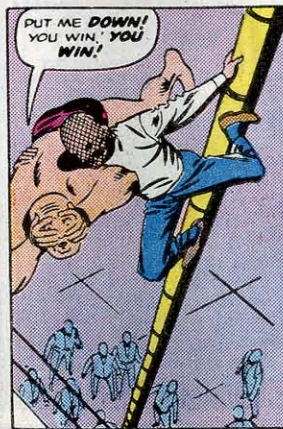
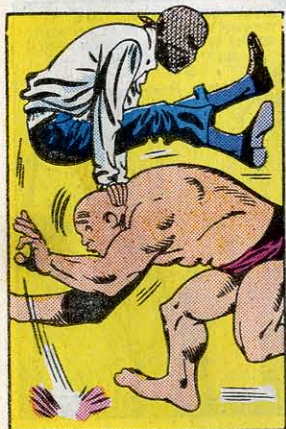
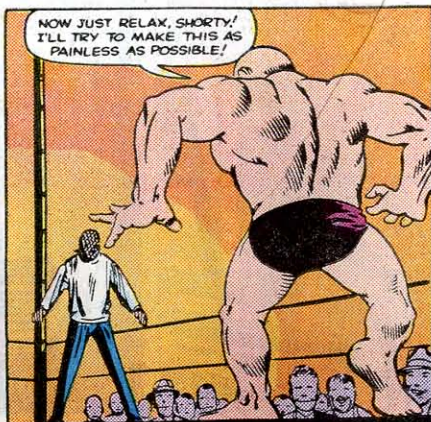
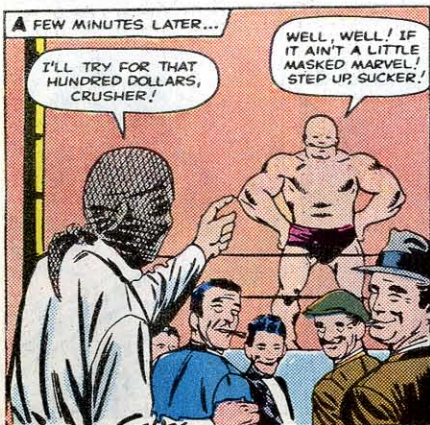
ARE YOU
KIDDIN'?
THAT
BOOKWORM
WOULDN'T
KNOW A
CHA-CHA
FROM A
WALTZ!

**PETER
PARKER?**
HE'S
MIDTOWN
HIGH'S ONLY
PROFESSIONAL
WALL FLOWER!

Stan Lee & S. DITKO

1

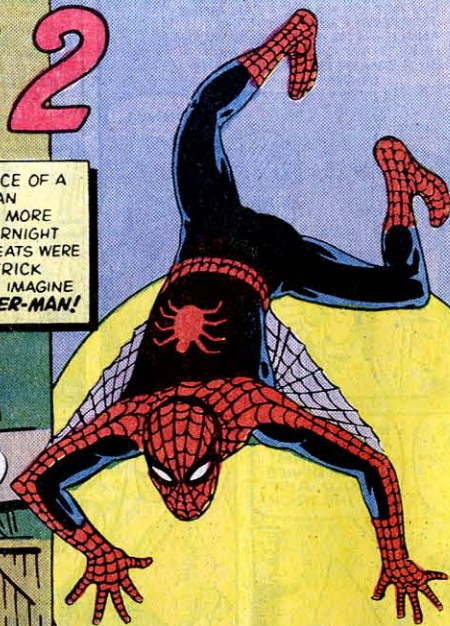




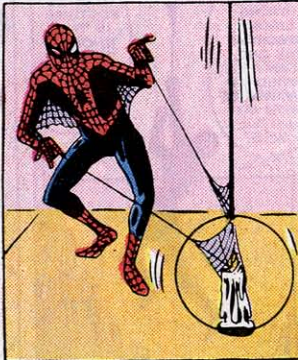
PART 2

NOW ANYBODY WITH THE INTELLIGENCE OF A SEVEN YEAR OLD KNOWS THAT IF A MAN APPEARED ON TV WHO SEEMED TO BE MORE SPIDER THAN HUMAN, HE'D BE AN OVERNIGHT SENSATION! ESPECIALLY WHEN HIS FEATS WERE PERFORMED WITHOUT THE HELP OF TRICK PHOTOGRAPHY! WELL, YOU CAN JUST IMAGINE HOW THE PUBLIC REACTED TO SPIDER-MAN!

I'M SEEIN' IT WITH MY OWN EYES, AND I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT!



SURE THEY LOOK AMAZED, INCREDULOUS, AWESTRICKEN WOULDN'T YOU???



AFTER ALL, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW A MAN WITH HIS OWN FANTASTIC SPIDER WEB???



OKAY, SPIDER-MAN -- CUT! THAT'S ENOUGH! DON'T SHOW 'EM TOO MUCH! LEAVE 'EM BEGGIN' FOR MORE!



AS HIS FIRST TV SPECTACULAR ENDS, PETER PARKER BREATHES THE FIRST SWEET SCENT OF FAME AND SUCCESS!

I'M FROM LIFE! WE'LL PAY ANY PRICE FOR A PICTURE SPREAD!
ME! I'LL PUT YOU IN THE MOVIES!
WAIT! WE WANT AN INTERVIEW!
SEE MY AGENT, BOYS! I'M BUSY!



WHEW! RID OF 'EM AT LAST!
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON??
STOP! THIEF! STOP HIM! IF HE MAKES IT TO THE ELEVATOR, HE'LL GET AWAY!



MADE IT!



I'M SAFE NOW! THAT COP CAN NEVER GET DOWN TO THE LOBBY AS FAST AS I CAN IN THIS HIGH-SPEED EXPRESS ELEVATOR! LUCKY THAT GOON IN A COSTUME DIDN'T STOP ME!



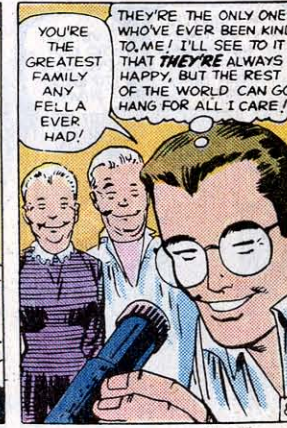
WHAT'S WITH YOU, MISTER?? ALL YOU HADDA DO WAS TRIP HIM, OR HOLD HIM JUST FOR A MINUTE!
SORRY, PAL! THAT'S YOUR JOB! I'M THRU BEING PUSHED AROUND -- BY ANYONE! FROM NOW ON I JUST LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE -- THAT MEANS -- ME!



I OUGHTTA RUN YOU IN--
SAVE YOUR BREATH, BUDDY! I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!



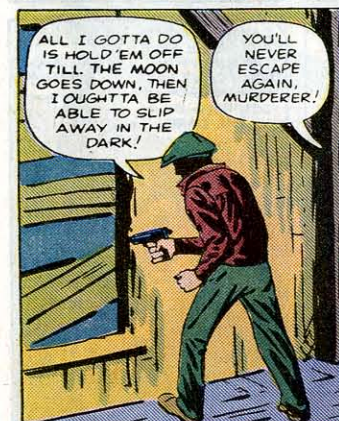
AND, A FEW HOURS LATER...
PETER, YOU KNOW THAT MICROSCOPE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED? YOUR UNCLE AND I BOUGHT IT FOR YOU THIS AFTERNOON!
GOSH, THAT'S TERRIFIC!



YOU'RE THE GREATEST FAMILY ANY FELLA EVER HAD!
THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO'VE EVER BEEN KIND TO ME! I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY'RE ALWAYS HAPPY, BUT THE REST OF THE WORLD CAN GO HANG FOR ALL I CARE!



AND, ONE EVENING AS PETER PARKER RETURNS HOME FROM A PERSONAL APPEARANCE...





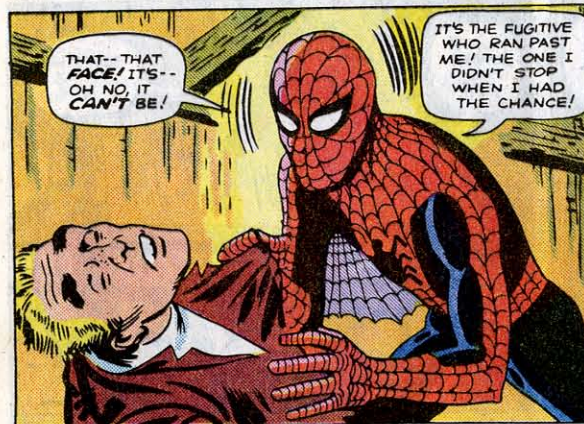
THERE'S NO PLACE ON EARTH WHERE YOU CAN HIDE FROM ME!



FIRST, MY WEB WILL RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR GUN!



AND THEN MY FISTS WILL DO THE REST!



THAT-- THAT FACE! IT'S-- OH NO, IT CAN'T BE!

IT'S THE FUGITIVE WHO RAN PAST ME! THE ONE I DIDN'T STOP WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!



I HATE TO DO IT, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO RUSH HIM NOW! CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE OF HIM SLIPPING BY IN THE DARK!

CAPTAIN-- LOOK!!



IT'S HIM!

ON A-- SPIDER'S WEB!



AND, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...

MY FAULT-- ALL MY FAULT! IF ONLY I HAD STOPPED HIM WHEN I COULD HAVE! BUT I DIDN'T-- AND NOW --UNCLE BEN-- IS DEAD...



AND A LEAN, SILENT FIGURE SLOWLY FADES INTO THE GATHERING DARKNESS, AWARE AT LAST THAT IN THIS WORLD, WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME -- GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!

AND SO A LEGEND IS BORN AND A NEW NAME IS ADDED TO THE ROSTER OF THOSE WHO MAKE THE WORLD OF FANTASY THE MOST EXCITING REALM OF ALL!

By the way, true believer, all of the captivating coloring was done by our own ever-lovable Andy Yanchus!



NEW YORK CITY'S CENTRAL PARK...

I DON'T GET IT. IF YOU ORIGINALLY BECAME SPIDER-MAN OUT OF A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY-- WHY QUIT NOW?



OR, MAYBE I'M JUST TIRED OF TRYING TO BE THE WORLD'S KEEPER.

I WAS NEVER MUCH GOOD AT IT ANYWAY. I WAS ALWAYS SCREWING UP.

TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY SUFFERED BECAUSE OF ME AND MY OVERBLOWN SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.



"I'M THE REASON GWEN STACY DIED."



"WANT A RECENT EXAMPLE? MY AUNT MAY KNEW NATHAN LUBENSKY WAS IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE. SHE BEGGED ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM."

"BUT SPIDER-MAN HAD OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES--"



"THEN, THERE'S JEAN DEWOLF, A NEW YORK CITY POLICE CAPTAIN MURDERED BY A LAW AND ORDER FANATIC WHO THOUGHT SHE WAS TOO SOFT ON CRIMINALS..."



"IT WAS WHILE I WAS CHASING JEAN'S KILLER THAT MY WORST POSSIBLE NIGHTMARE BECAME A REALITY."

"THE SIN-EATER TRIED TO BLOW ME AWAY. I INSTINCTIVELY LEAPED TO SAFETY--"

"--AND COULDN'T BE THERE TO STOP A GANG OF THUGS FROM ALMOST BEATING HIM TO DEATH!!"

"BUT, I CAN'T QUITE SHAKE THE FEELING THAT HER WELL-KNOWN ASSOCIATION WITH ME WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT POINTED HER OUT TO HIM."

"--BUT, THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM PULLING THE TRIGGER, AND FIRING INTO THE CROWD!"



INTO THE CROWD!

THOSE POOR PEOPLE! ONE MAN DIED--THE REST WERE SEVERELY WOUNDED!

ALL BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE THEM!

PETER, YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THAT!

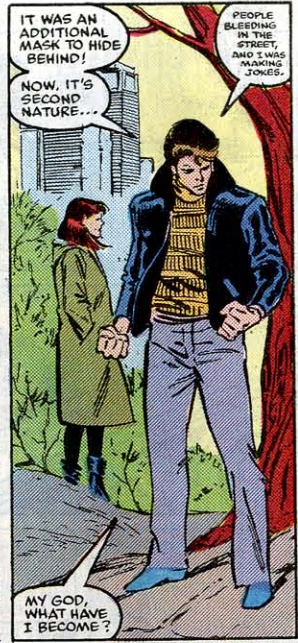
CAN'T I? WELL, YOU DON'T KNOW THE WORST PART...



BEFORE I EVEN REALIZED IT, I FELL INTO MY OLD, FAMILIAR PATTERNS--AND STARTED MAKING WITH THE SNAPPY PATTEN!

CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT? I WAS TRADING PUNS WITH A LUNATIC LIKE SIN-EATER!

WHEN I FIRST BECAME SPIDER-MAN, I USED PATTEN TO COVER UP MY UNEASINESS! MY FEAR!



IT WAS AN ADDITIONAL MASK TO HIDE BEHIND!

NOW, IT'S SECOND NATURE...

MY GOD, WHAT HAVE I BECOME?

PEOPLE BLEEDING IN THE STREET, AND I WAS MAKING JOKES.



OH, PETER, I WISH I COULD EASE YOUR PAIN. I CAN'T!

IT'S NO SECRET THAT I'VE ALWAYS HATED THE FACT THAT YOU WERE SPIDER-MAN! I ALWAYS FEARED THE DANGER YOU PUT YOURSELF IN!

AND YET, I SECRETLY ADMIRER YOU TOO.



I'M THE ONE WHO ALWAYS RAN FROM RESPONSIBILITY--FROM COMMITMENT!

I WANTED TO BE MORE LIKE YOU...

...BUT NOW, YOU'RE ACTING LIKE ME!

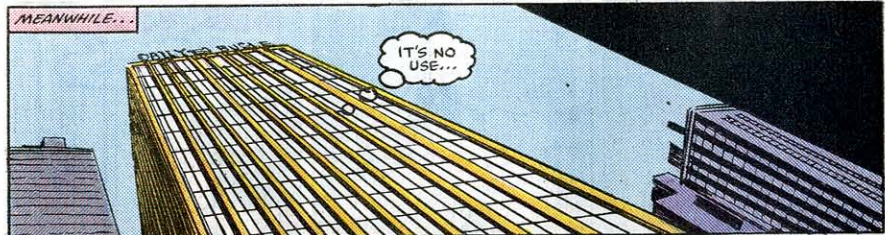


CAN YOU REALLY QUIT BEING SPIDER-MAN?

WHAT WILL THAT COST YOU...

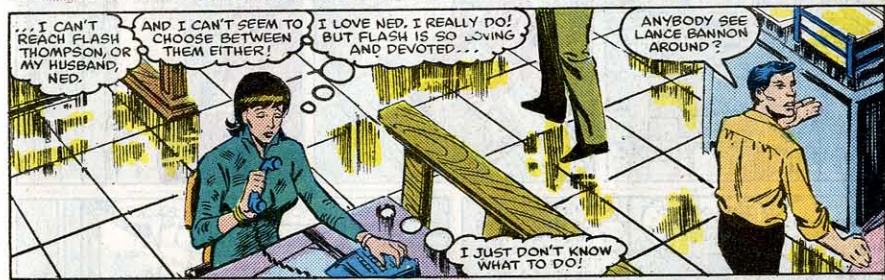


...AND US?!



MEANWHILE...

IT'S NO USE...



...I CAN'T REACH FLASH THOMPSON, OR MY HUSBAND, NED.

AND I CAN'T SEEM TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM EITHER!

I LOVE NED, I REALLY DO! BUT FLASH IS SO LOVING AND DEVOTED...

ANYBODY SEE LANCE BANNON AROUND?

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!



BETTY, HAVE YOU FINISHED TYPING THAT LETTER TO...

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK A LITTLE SHAKY.

I... I'M FINE, ROBBIE, REALLY!

WHY DON'T YOU STEP INTO MY OFFICE FOR A FEW MINUTES? I'D LIKE TO CHAT...



LOOK, I DON'T MAKE IT A HABIT OF BUTTING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES, BUT YOU AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A LONG WHILE...

I KNOW YOU AND NED ARE HAVING YOUR PROBLEMS NOW. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

OH, ROBBIE, I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FOOL--



--DRAGGING MY PERSONAL PROBLEMS INTO THE OFFICE LIKE THIS!

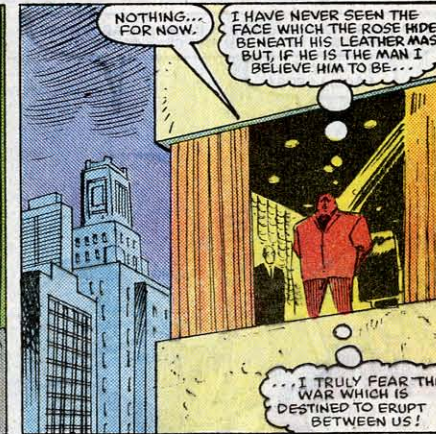
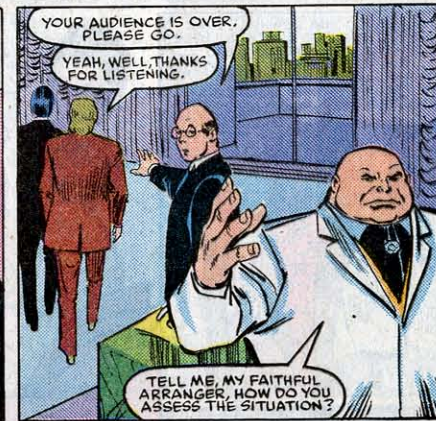
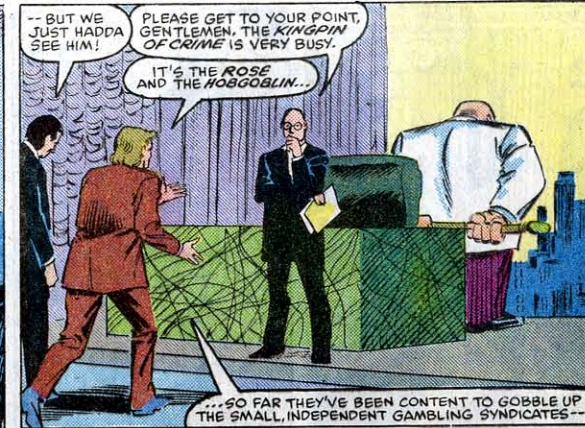
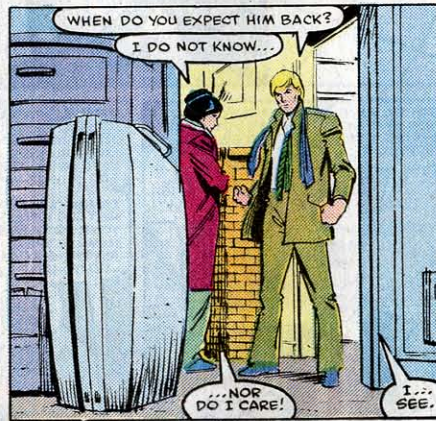
IT'S JUST THAT NED TAKES HIS JOB AS A REPORTER VERY SERIOUSLY. HE WORKS SO HARD--TOO HARD--THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY TIME LEFT FOR ME!

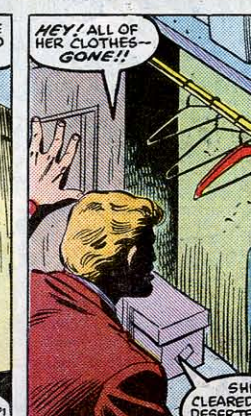
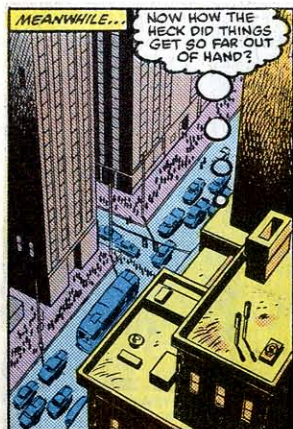
AND, I JUST CAN'T DEAL WITH THAT ANYMORE.



THERE IS ONE THING YOU COULD DO, THOUGH. STOP GIVING HIM THOSE UNDERCOVER ASSIGNMENTS WHICH TAKE HIM AWAY FOR DAYS OR WEEKS ON END.

UNDERCOVER ASSIGNMENTS? WHAT UNDERCOVER ASSIGNMENTS?!







I MUST LURE SPIDER-MAN OUT INTO THE OPEN, SO THAT I CAN EASILY DESTROY HIM!

THE PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL WILL CERTAINLY PROVIDE ME WITH AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION--



--ONCE I STIR UP THE PROPER AMOUNT OF HYSTERIA!

DANNY, LOOK! IT'S THAT HOBGOBLIN CHARACTER! THERE ARE ENOUGH OUTSTANDING WARRANTS ON HIM TO PAPER THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA!

I'VE BEEN WAITING TO TAKE ON ONE OF THESE COSTUMED FREAKS EVER SINCE I JOINED THE FORCE!

COME ON, SUCKER-- MAKE MY DAY!



NO.

YOU MAKE MINE!

PWOOM!

UGNN

G-GAS! CAN'T BREATHHHHH!



THIS IS GOING MUCH TOO QUICKLY!

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT THESE SIMPLE POLICEMEN WOULD BE NO MORE THAN A MOMENTARY DISTRACTION TO ONE AS POWERFUL AS I!

BUT I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL GET THE MEDIA INVOLVED!



A HOSTAGE--!

THAT USUALLY GETS THE NEWSMEN IN AN UPROAR!

AND I SEE THE PERFECT TARGET!



YOU!!

N-NO!!

DON'T HURT ME! PLEASE--!



AYIIII!!

STOP STRUGGLING, GIRL!

DO YOU WANT TO FALL TO YOUR DEATH?!

YOU ARE FAR SAFER IN MY HANDS THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE!

YOU'VE SUDDENLY BECOME A MOST PRECIOUS PAWN IN MY DEADLY GAME OF REVENGE!



ELSEWHERE...

I THINK YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!



YOU KIDDING?! YOU'VE ALWAYS HATED THE IDEA OF ME BEING SPIDER-MAN! WHY THE CHANGE OF HEART?

I... DON'T KNOW.

IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE BEING FAIR... TO YOURSELF... OR ANYONE ELSE!



YOU'VE DONE A LOT OF GOOD AS THE WEB-SWINGER, SAVED A LOT OF LIVES! SURELY, YOU CAN SEE THAT!

NOBODY ELSE CARES!

WHY SHOULD I?



BECAUSE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

YOU HAVE SOME PRETTY AMAZING POWERS, PETER. YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF TO USE THEM.

YOU OWE IT TO THE WORLD TO USE THEM PROPERLY!



SAVE THE SPEECHES, LADY! I'VE ALREADY DONE MY SHARE.

FROM HERE ON IN, I'M GOING TO LIVE MY LIFE THROUGH THE BOOB TUBE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

...AFTER TEARING UP THE POST AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL...



...THE MYSTERIOUS CRIMINAL KNOWN AS THE HOBGOBLIN APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN AN UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN AS HOSTAGE!

A NEWS UP-DATE WILL FOLLOW THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSORS...

WHAT THE--?!



PETER, YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

WHY ME?! THIS CITY IS FULL OF COSTUMED JERKS-- LIKE THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

I... CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE GOING TO TURN YOUR BACK ON THAT POOR WOMAN!



WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU, PETER?!

WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY NOW?!



AND, SOON...

W-WHY ME?!

ALL THOSE PEOPLE, AND YOU CHOSE ME! WHY--?!

BECAUSE YOU ARE RATHER PLAIN, MY DEAR, UNATTRACTIVE AND, OBVIOUSLY, NOT TOO INTELLIGENT!

I FIGURED VERY FEW PEOPLE WOULD CARE IF IT BECAME NECESSARY TO DISPOSE OF YOU.



BESIDES, I HAVE THIS THING FOR BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

AND, I'VE LEARNED FROM PAST EXPERIENCE, THAT IT ISN'T EASY TO MENACE SOMEONE I FIND APPEALING!

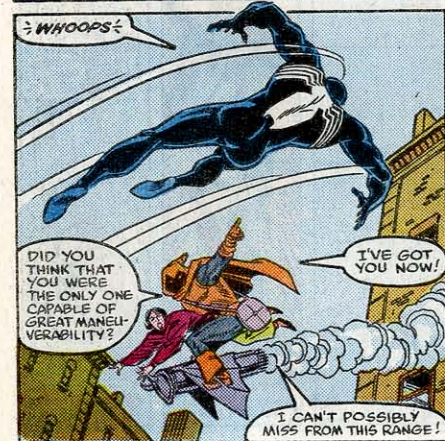
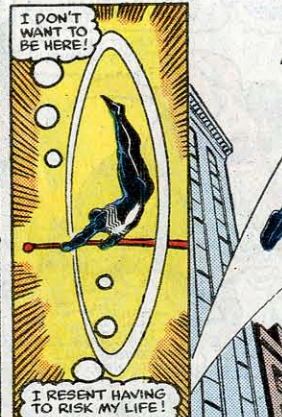
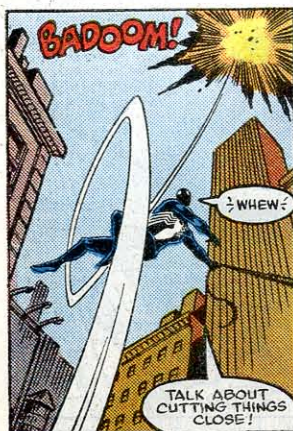


HEY, FRIGHT-FACE! ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT YOUR MANNERS ARE FROM HUNGER?

ISN'T IT BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE THREATENING THE WOMAN'S LIFE-- DO YOU HAVE TO INSULT HER, TOO?!

YOU!!





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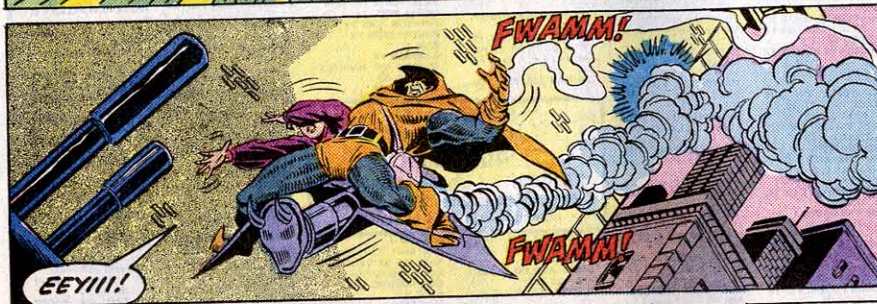
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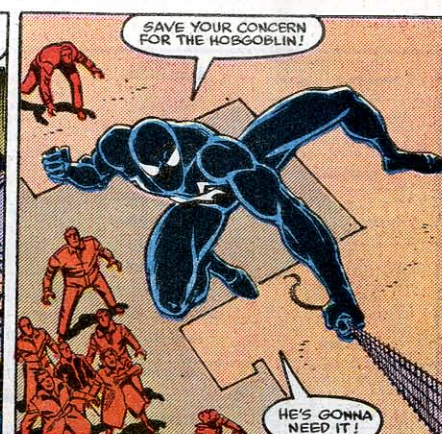
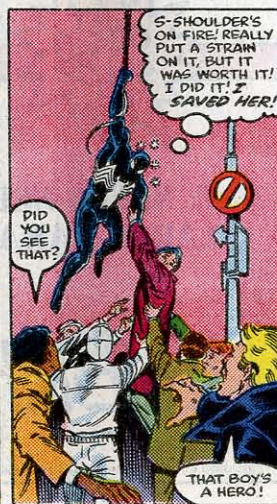
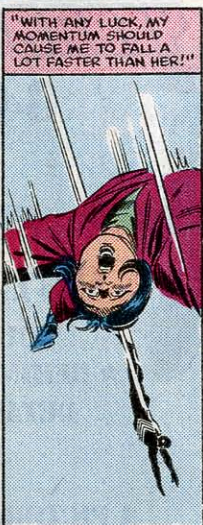
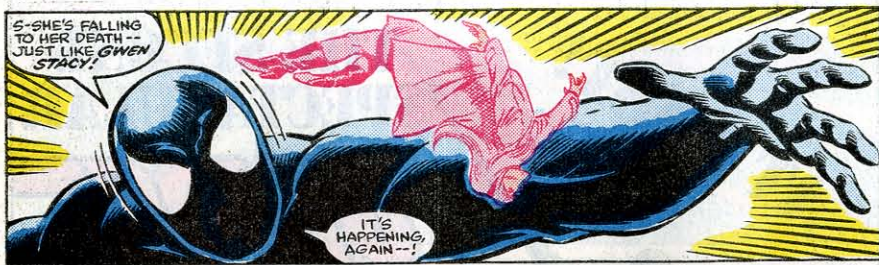
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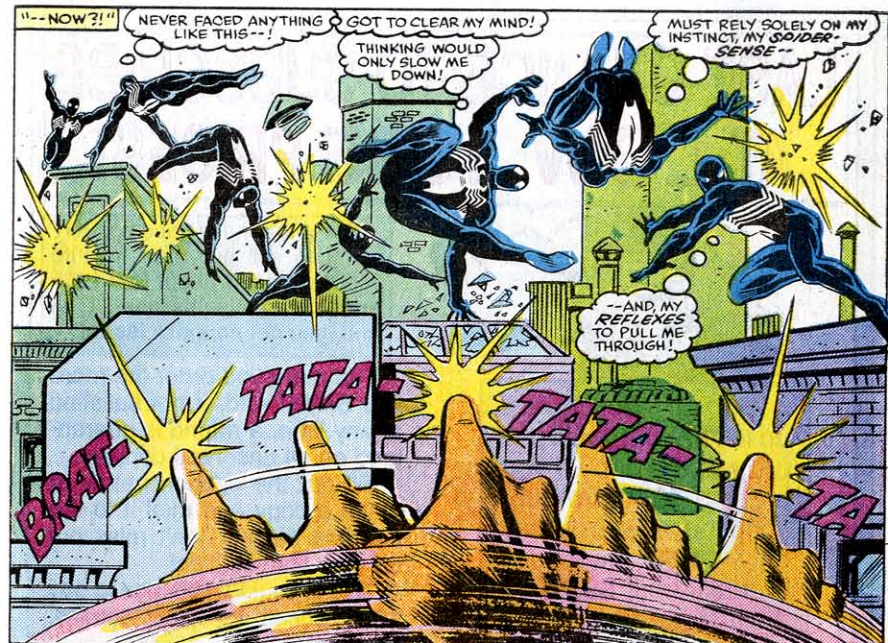


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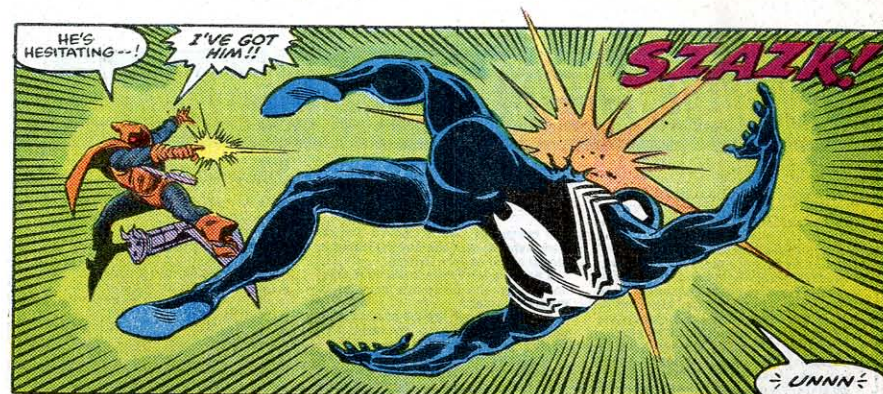
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

Dear Santa,

I've been a pretty good boy this year, if you don't count August. Actually, except for the incident with the Exploding Cantaloupe (Chris Claremont's nose is healing nicely), I was pretty well behaved. Oh, sure, I admit that I put those two goats wearing babushkas in Bob Layton's hotel room in Houston, but as it turned out, Bob, Billy, and Nanny became fast friends. They still write. Also, I can explain the kiddie pool full of lime Jell-O. But not here. Anyway, I promise I'll never leave an exploding cantaloupe lying around again. How was I to know that Chris was passing by and in the mood for a Boston cooler? It

was an accident that he got it. It was meant for a more deserving party. So, give me a break, huh?
Here's what I want for Christmas:

A castle like Doctor Doom's (but on Park Avenue) so I can say my house is almost as big as John Byrne's.
A hammer like Thor's to use for making fine adjustments on certain members of the creative staff.
A tight-fitting hat, like the one Magneto used to wear, to keep my head from swelling while reading the rave mail.
Steel-hard skin like Luke Cage's for when the occasional hate letter comes in from the occasional irate fan or com-

petitor.
100 pairs of stretch socks.

That's enough. But while I'm at it, please bring Chris a tea cozy to keep his nose warm until it's all better, and Bob a goat's cheese cookbook.
Oh, and one more thing. Please give a dozen exploding cantaloupes to you-know-who over at you-know-where.
Sincerely yours,

Jim S.
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And, on a slightly more serious note . . . HAPPY HOLIDAYS from all of us at Marvel Comics!

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- ☐ **STAR WARS #104**
- ☐ **THOR #395**
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- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #14**
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- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #121**
- ☐ **SAVAGE TALES #3**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASH-BUCKLERS #6**—Welcome aboard regular penciler GEOFF ISHERWOOD!
- ☐ **MOONSHADOW #6**—Eye-popping artwork supplied this issue by Epic illustrator KENT WILLIAMS!

- ☐ **STARSTRUCK (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **THE ONE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #13**
- ☐ **ELQUEST #8**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #2**—Found: a gateway to another dimension!
- ☐ **COYOTE #18**—The Djinn and Scorpio Pose join Coyote in his last adventure!
- ☐ **TIMESPIRITS #8**—Could this be the end?
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #34**—The final issue, featuring TERRY AUSTIN, JOHN BYRNE, ARKIE GOODWIN, ALAN MOORE, SANDY PUNKNETT, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, ART SUYDAM, AL WILLIAMSON, BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH and BERNI WRIGHTSON, among others!

STAR COMICS

- ☐ **PLANET TERRY #12**—A happy surprise for the Vile!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #6**
- ☐ **WALLY THE WIZARD #12**
- ☐ **EWOKS #6**—Wicket finds himself in a cosmic battle against the Ice Demon!
- ☐ **ROYAL ROY #6**—What is the secret power of Casper?
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- ☐ **GETALONG GANG #6**—Watch out! There's a stranger in Green Meadow!
- ☐ **CARE BEARS #3**—Featuring "Blue Who!"

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **GN #20: GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE**—Why is New York called "Fun City"? Because you can wander through Chinatown, eat a bagel, and meet vampires! Get in on the fun with J.M. DeMatteis (writer) and MARK BADGER (artist)!



THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR
ADAM BLAUSTEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

In case you haven't heard the news, Marvel Comics will be celebrating its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary this year.

Twenty-five years of Marvel Comics! I almost can't believe it's been that long.

I first discovered Marvel when I was eleven or twelve years old. I had gone down to the local soda shop to see what was new on the comic book racks. I was bored, and really hoped to find something exciting to read. I found *Fantastic Four* #3 and #4 . . . and I've been hooked on Marvel ever since!

My favorite character has always been a certain friendly neighborhood web-slinger whom I met in the pages of *Amazing Fantasy* #15. (Yes, I was one of the lucky ones who actually bought a copy of *Spider-Man*'s very first appearance.)

That story has been reprinted in this special anniversary celebration. Since this particular issue is the very first Spider-Man book to be published this year, we figured we'd give you a unique opportunity to see where Spider-Man's been, and to glimpse where he's headed . . .

Marvel has made a lot of magic in the past twenty-five years. Hopefully, the best is yet to come. Who knows, maybe you'll be writing this column—or one like it—twenty-five years from now. I wish you luck!

Thanks for being there!
Tom DeFalco

SEND ALL LETTERS TO:

Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Please include your name and address. We will, however, withhold them upon request.

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

I've just finished reading issue #271 and I enjoyed it. The art was excellent and the story was the same. The creative team on THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN really works well together.

Just a few suggestions: I think Spider-Man needs another male buddy who he can get close to and talk with. Since Harry Osborne left that been a position needing to be filled.

Also, I agree with other correspondents that J.J.J. should make amends with Spider-Man. That old Jonah-hates-Spidey subplot is wearing thin.

Please let Spidey go back to school and finish his education. In my opinion this will mark the end of the first age of Spider-Man and let his adult life flourish.

Also, I hope Peter's relationship with Mary-Jane goes somewhere this time.

Well, until Spidey wears an "S" on his chest, Make Mine Marvel!

The Reader
2943 Rosewood Cr.
Port Coquitlam BC
Canada V3B-3L8

For more on the Jonah-Spidey feud, don't miss WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #13, on sale now!

True Believers,

I just got AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #272, and it knocked my socks off. The art was superb and the storyline was excellent. Spidey seems to be a pretty slick character (pun intended). I only have one complaint . . . I WANT MORE HOBGOBLIN! Hobby is one of my favorite villains, because he doesn't mess around. I read all of your Spider-Man titles. ASM #s 269 and 270 were excellent also. Firelord has a terrible temper, doesn't he?

Christopher Kirshon
5621 S. Greenfield
Portsmouth VA 23703

More Hobgoblin, Christopher? Well . . . okay, if you insist.

Dear Spider-Men,

Something wonderful has happened to THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. It comes in the form of Sal Buscema and Kyle Baker. Spider-Man #272 was utterly fantastic. From splash page to the last page, I was enthralled by the art and the story. I'd like to give a special compliment to Nelson Yimov and his superb coloring job.

A quick word about Spidey: He's great. Spidey is one of the most unique villains to surface in a long time. It's refreshing to see a villain who doesn't want to hurt other people (well, physically, anyway). I hope he'll be popping up again in the near future.

There seems to be a small controversy concerning the gold notebook Spider-Man took out of the trashcan. Here's what I'd like to see happen. Peter should cash in the notebook, spend some of it on Aunt May and her halfway house, and pay any hospital bills for Nathan (if Medicare doesn't take care of them all). Then, I'd like to see Spider-Man donate whatever's left to a worthy cause. I feel this way Peter won't feel as guilty about taking the notebook in the first place. Also, he'll be helping a lot of people and he might even help himself, smoothing relations with Aunt May, and Spider-Man's public image might improve.

Kevin J. Frey
2821 S. Blackstone Ave
Minneapolis MN 55416

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #14 sounds like it's got your number, Kevin. It features the debut of new regular writer David Michelinie andinker extraordinaire Kyle Baker! And WEB #14 begins a 2-part tale that will end with the ultimate resolution of the gold notebook controversy!

Dear Editors,

The premiere of Spidey in THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #272 was fabulous! Spidey has some very unique abilities and provides Spidey with a very formidable foe! Spidey might even

make a good hero if he decides to reform. Whatever the case, bring Spidey back soon! He's terrific!

Jeff Mitchell
c/o DJ Vorwerk
1579 Grandview A.E.
Maplewood MN 55109

Dear Arachnoids,

Just a friendly letter to let you know how much I enjoyed #272. Spidey seems to be an interesting character, but what's real interesting is his costume.

When we see Mr. Beacher claim that his new coating is frictionless, I could envision the massive response you would receive over this new discovery. Beacher claims that nothing will stick to this miraculous discovery. If this is true, then how is Spidey's uniform able to "hold onto" the frictionless stuff?

If something is frictionless, NOTHING would be able to adhere to such a substance, no matter what was done to it. So Spidey can't have his uniform "covered" with a frictionless substance.

Also, if Spidey's boots are "covered" with this substance, he wouldn't be able to run or negotiate a sharp curve as shown on page 5, panel 4. If you're wondering why, take a peek into a physics book and look under Newton's first law of motion.

When I thought about writing this letter, I intended to mention real technical about the "curve" I mentioned above (i.e. weight, efficient of friction, speed, etc.) but I have changed my mind and let you guys "SLIDE". Maybe because I have spared you from such an attack, perhaps a coveted No-Prize will appear in my mailbox?

Jim Puga
311 E. Street
Broderick CA 95605

Very astute reasoning, Jim, but you neglected to address the real test required to receive a much-coveted No-Prize; that is, you didn't come up with an explanation as to how Spidey's frictionless fabric really does work. After all, such complexities are far too sticky for us poor overworked editors!

Dear Web-Heads,

Just thought I'd drop you a line about AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #272. The debut of Spidey was interesting, to say the least. He has great potential, and I'm sure he'll become a major SPIDER-MAN villain. I can't wait for next issue for two reasons:

- 1) The Puma will be returning. He's my favorite villain next to the Hobgoblin.
- 2) Next issue will be a SECRET WARS II crossover.

By the way, did Ron Frenz draw the epilogue for this issue? It looked like his work.

Oh yeah, I think I found out who Nathan's "friend" is. First, take a look in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #271. The guy Nathan talks to in the alley is wearing a hat and the shape of the hat looks familiar. Then, in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #272, there is a vase of roses in Nathan's room from a "friend".

Now who do we know that wears a hat and has an obsession with roses? Of course! The Rose! Am I right? Until Spidey makes up his mind on which costume to wear, MAKE MINE MARVEL!

Larry Baranski
32372 Bristol Ct.
Fraser MI 48026

Right Frenz, wrong Rose.

Dear Marvel,

I'm writing on behalf of issues 271 and 272. Issue 272 was great! Spidey is a good villain for Spidey. Sal Buscema is a great penciler. Keep him. By the way, how fast can Spidey move in that suit of his?

Now, issue 271, that's a different story. I'm not going to say how great it was (although it was superb), but to ask some questions regarding

BECOME YOUR FAVORITE MARVEL CHARACTER.

the Hobgoblin. On page 15, Peter's Spider-Sense goes off. Why? Cause of Lance Bannon, or perhaps Hobby. Maybe? On the next page we see Ned and Betty having a fight. Could Ned's outrage be due to prolonged exposure to the Goblin formula, like what happened to Norman? The point I'm trying to make is that I think Hobby is either Lance Bannon or Ned Leeds. Well, until the Hobgoblin takes up basketball, make mine Marvel.

Heath Vinyard
6925 N Galtry Pl.
Tucson AZ 85741

Well, Heath, by the end of this issue's climactic struggle, you won't have to guess any longer.

Dear Web-Shooters,
I am a newcomer to the comic-book world (about 4 months). With the exception of some old Spider-Man books, I had never collected two comic books in a row in my life. The first comic book I picked up three months ago was an AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I didn't know what I had been missing! I would like to thank Marvel and the makers of AMAZING—and WEB—for welcoming me into the Marvel Universe. Now my favorites are SECRET WARS II, AMAZING, and WEB. My first AMAZING was #266. What a way to start! It was great. I loved the SECRET WARS II tie-in. The Firelord series was good, too. Until Mr. Fantastic's arms fall off, make mine Marvel!

Jeff Ham
412 Hickory Tree Circle
Sellersburg IN 46784

Welcome aboard, Jeff!

Dear Stan Lee,
Whatever happened to the spider that bit Peter Parker? You know, the one that turned him into the Amazing Spider-Man?

I know that it probably died, but did it have any offspring? It seems likely that it did. Are there any more Spider-Men out there?

Ray Herbert and Cliff Crawford
PO Box 3362
Bryan TX 77805

It's dead, Jim ... er, Ray and Cliff. See this issue's special re-presentation of the original Marvel masterpiece!

Dear AMAZING, SPECTACULAR, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN,

I have a few suggestions:

1) Could you, like, have more Spider-Man comic books? Even though every other hero can only fight one villain a month, I think Spider-Man should be able to fight 4 or 5 villains a month. It's only fair.

2) Why doesn't every hero have 2 or 3 suits? Why wear out one look? Besides, it would help the heroes because it would confuse the villains.

And, 3) Could you have more SECRET WARS crossovers? It's good to confuse people who don't get SECRET WARS and leave them hanging on some stories.

Brian Edgar
1420 Hodges
Independence MO 64052

Dear Web-Heads,

Here are my comments about issue 272. I loved the cover. The cover's drawing was better than the book's artwork. I liked the new character, Slyde. He's got new appeal and good promise to be a great villain or even a hero. With his frictionless costume, he should be a great match for Spider-Man. All Slyde needs is some experience. Give him some. Don't let him disappear. The story was good overall and the artwork was fair. I'm glad you put D.A. Tower in the story. I hadn't seen him for awhile. Tower got the tape even though Slyde grabbed the money. I'm glad to hear that Spider-Man thinks he's going to

come first. Who believes that one? Not me. He should clear this fight between Aunt May and himself, though. I can't wait until next issue for the Spidey/Puma team-up against the Beyonder. I'll be here. Also, get Hobgoblin back in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I've narrowed his identity to three people: Ned Leeds, Flash Thompson, or Lance Bannon. But wouldn't this be a shock: the secret identity of the Hobgoblin is Aunt May Parker!

Carl Zeiler
426 S. Elmwood
Oak Park, IL 60302

WHO TOLD YOU?

Dear Marvel Madmen,
I looooooove ASM #273! I also can't wait to read the continuations in PPTSSM #111 and then back to ASM #274 for the conclusion! I'm really intrigued to find out how this confrontation will end with the Beyonder. I'm a fairly recent collector of Spidey's, but I have to admit that they are my favorite mags. I really enjoy the new black-and-white Spidey duds, and I hope that they are around for much, much longer. By the way, I noticed that in ASM #271 page 16, panel 4, there was a poster in the far right corner of the panel. It read "Spider-Man, Old and New." It happened to have that poster, and I noticed that you included Aunt May's face under Spidey's right leg! How could that be if the poster was sold in New York with Spidey around? Oh, well, in closing, forever MAKE MINE MARVEL!!!!

Michael Schafer
1100 State Street
New Orleans LA 70118

Dear Marvel People,

Way to go you people are great, fantastic, and awesome. Why am I saying these nice things about you great people? Because you're putting my favorite Web-Slinger and my favorite mags, and my favorite person from Beyond all together in one Amazing mag! Way to go!

Jonathan Romeo
1708 Capistrano Dr.
Knoxville, TN

Dear Jim, Tom, and Ron,

"To Challenge the Beyonder" is a neat tie to the story. In issue #273 you really got me wanting more. Like Spider-Man should take the \$100,000, or at least cash in the notebook. Give me a break, for almost half a year I've been wanting to know what is going to happen to the notebook, and yet two books have dragged it on. I love the way you combine the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN and this tie together, while you leave PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN up to date but let it get into its own comic plot. Also lately I've noticed a lot of fight 'em and leave 'em enemies. Firelord, Menslaugur, and Slyde were quick fights where we found little to do with the villain. Firelord at least we have heard of before.

I also hear that the identity of Hobgoblin is soon to be revealed. Just because we find out who he or she is, that character does not need to be written off. That's just my thoughts, so keep Spidey swinging. And how about some good, long, action-packed four-issue sagas against an interesting villain. And I don't count the Beyonder as a villain. So until next time ...

Matthew Paul
381 Lincoln Street
Lexington MA 02173

Dear Creative Staff,

ASM #273, as great a comic as it was, as stupendous and inspired the writing and art, was therein, still failed to divert me from the true important continuing storyline: the identity of the Hobgoblin.

In this, and most recent issues, you have dropped various hints that the Hobgoblin is either Lance Bannon or Ned Leeds. You may have fooled some readers, but after months of back-issue reading, I have deduced that the Hobgoblin must be ... Timothy Byrnes! ...

Mary Jane's father? ... Richard Fisk? ... oh, heck, I don't know who he is.

Michael Pointer
Raleigh NC 27622

See next issue, Michael. You'll figure it out.

Greetings, Tall One and crew,
Let us examine the clues in the Hobgoblin case.

He is used to dealing in power, although not of a physical nature. He could be a politician. He has criminal connections of a minor and very secret nature. He could still be a politician. His sanity is slipping. This results from a family history of insanity, including a schizoid son with an evil alter-ego. He also has a reason to seek revenge against Spidey. This leads us back to the son whom Spidey brutalized while under the influence of the Spider-Lizard radiation. Everything points to only one man ...

The Hobgoblin is Senator Robert Martin (PPTSSM #38 and 39). I would like to thank the academy if I receive the famous No-Prize.

Jimmy Weiler
2689 Addison Dr.
Doraville GA 30340

WHO TOLD YOU?

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
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8. Full name and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Managing Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

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(Signed) Thomas Costello — Business Manager

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